StormReady
NWS Tallahassee Area
Organization and Operations Manual

NWS Warning and Forecast Office
Love Building - FSU
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4509
850-942-8833

StormReady Organization and Operations Manual

Section 1.0

StormReady Overview

Many laws and regulations have been created to help local emergency managers deal with hazardous material spills, search and rescue operations, medical crises, etc., but there are relatively few uniformly-recognized standards dealing with the specifics of hazardous weather response operations. Recognizing this need, the National Weather Service (NWS), has designed a program to help cities, counties, and towns implement procedures to reduce the potential for disastrous, weather-related, consequences. By participating in this program, called "StormReady", local agencies can earn recognition for their jurisdiction by meeting criteria established by the NWS in partnership with federal, state, and local emergency management professionals. The StormReady program is intended to:

, Improve the timeliness and effectiveness of hazardous weather warnings for the public.

, Provide detailed and clear recommendations by which local emergency managers may establish/improve effective hazardous weather operations.

, Help local emergency managers justify costs and purchases related to supporting their hazardous weather-related program.

, Reward local hazardous-weather mitigation programs that have achieved a desired performance level.

, Provide a means of acquiring additional Community Rating System points assigned by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO). (This is currently under consideration by ISO officials.)

, Provide an "image incentive" to counties, cities, and towns that can identify themselves as being "StormReady"

, Encourage the enhancement of hazardous weather preparedness programs in jurisdictions surrounding "StormReady" Communities and Counties.

StormReady is a voluntary program, and is being offered as a means of providing guidance and incentive to officials interested in improving their respective hazardous weather operations. **Implied or explicit references to "requirements" are made with regard to the voluntary participants in the StormReady program and should not be construed as being state or federal mandates.**

Section 2.0

StormReady Advisory Board Organization

Implementation and oversight of the StormReady program is completed through the formation of StormReady Advisory Boards. Advisory boards shall be set up on a national, regional and local basis.

Section 2.1

National StormReady Advisory Board

The National StormReady Advisory Board is responsible for general oversight of the StormReady program. The primary mission of the national board is to maintain a "minimum" set of recognition criteria that is consistent across the country with regard to technology, while at the same time allowing for local flexibility in terms of planning and preparedness activities.

Existing and proposed criteria are reviewed at the National StormReady Advisory Board's annual meeting, with updated criteria formally published by the board on or before October 1st of each federal fiscal year.

The National StormReady Advisory Board is comprised of:

NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) Program Leader (NWSH)

NWS Eastern Region WCM Program Leader

NWS Southern Region WCM Program Leader

NWS Central Region WCM Program Leader

NWS Western Region WCM Program Leader

NWS Alaska Region WCM Program Leader

NWS Pacific Region WCM Program Leader

Section 2.2

Regional StormReady Advisory Board

Each of the NWS's six regional offices shall establish Regional StormReady Advisory Board. Team membership shall be determined by the Regional Director.

Regional StormReady Advisory Boards shall monitor the activities of local boards and ensure the spirit of the national criteria is maintained. Regional boards also collect and review proposed criteria change recommendations received from the Local StormReady Advisory Boards. Recommendations for change to the national criteria shall be forwarded to the National StormReady Advisory Board for consideration.

Section 2.3

Local Area StormReady Advisory Board - Tallahassee

The board shall consist of:

> 1 - NWS Tallahassee Meteorologist in Charge - Paul Duval
>
> 1 - NWS Tallahassee Warning Coordination Meteorologist - Bob Goree
>
> 2 - State emergency management agency Area Coordinators - Jim Helms
> > Bryan Lowe
>
> 1 - State DEM representative - Ben Nelson
>
> 2 - Emergency management association representatives - Robby Powers
> > Richard Smith

In addition, the board includes affiliate members including:

, American Red Cross

, FLASH - Federal Alliance for Safe Homes

This StormReady Local Advisory Board is responsible for all steps leading to the recognition of the StormReady county. This includes developing by-laws for the board's activities, localization of the national criteria, establishing procedures for verification visits, and implementing procedures for application review.

Section 3.0

StormReady Application Process

Application for StormReady recognition is a formal process requiring a written application, verification visit(s), local board action, and recognition.

Section 3.1

Application Submission

Any county desiring to be considered for StormReady recognition should prepare a written application following the categories outlined in Appendix A and submit it to the NWS Tallahassee office. Preferably, the application should contain a cover letter signed by the county EMA director supporting the county's fulfillment of StormReady guidelines. See examples Appendix C.

Since counties have jurisdiction over communities and unincorporated areas, a single application is sufficient, with the combined populations used as a basis for determining the appropriate criteria categories.

While much of the application is a basic accounting of technology, a brief narrative describing aspects of preparedness and planning activities is necessary and will aid in assessing such things as the hazardous weather plan, exercises and public safety programs.

The application will be duplicated by the StormReady Local Advisory Board Chairperson and provided to each board member. The StormReady Chairperson shall assign a team to visit the applicant and formally discuss the application.

Section 3.2
StormReady Verification Visit

A verification team of no less than 2 members shall be assembled by the StormReady Chairperson to visit an applicant. The verification team should be composed of, at a minimum, one NWS person and one emergency management representative. StormReady verification team members should be StormReady Advisory Board members, or other individuals deemed qualified to make an assessment by the Local StormReady Advisory Board.

During the verification visit, a Site Visit Summary (Appendix B) shall be completed separately and signed by each member of the verification team. During the site visit, a review of the applicant's hazardous weather plan will occur. This review may require the applicant to explain procedures to ensure that the content meets StormReady Criteria. A full copy of the applicant's Hazardous Weather Plan does not need to be submitted to the StormReady Advisory Board; however, the verification team may request a copy for further offsite review.

Upon completing a site visit, the verification team shall forward to the Local Advisory Board their Site Visit Summaries, along with any additional comments or documentation deemed pertinent.

Section 3.3

StormReady Board Review

The Local StormReady Advisory Board shall review a jurisdiction's application and associated site visit summaries at the local boards next regularly scheduled meeting after the site visit. The local StormReady Advisory Board may approve an application for recognition after this first review.

If the recognition is not approved, the local board shall provide written guidance on improvements needed to achieve recognition. Upon written response from the applying jurisdiction, a subsequent StormReady verification visit and local board review shall be scheduled. If a community disputes a decision made by the local advisory board, the dispute shall be forwarded to the Regional StormReady Advisory Board for resolution.

Section 3.4
The Recognition Process

When in the opinion of the StormReady Advisory Board an applicant has met the criteria for recognition, the local board has the authority to grant recognition. Notification of recognition shall be given to the National and Regional Advisory Boards.

The successful applicant will receive a formal notification letter from the appropriate NWS Meteorologist in Charge, two StormReady signs suitable for display along roadways (four for combined community / county applicants), authorization to use the StormReady logo, instructions for acquiring additional roadway signs, and information concerning the notification of the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) for possible adjustment to insurance rates (Section 3.8).

Recognition shall be for a period of two years from the date of the formal announcement.

Section 3.5

Recognition Ceremony

Details of the recognition announcement and ceremony shall be coordinated between the applicant and the NWS office which has responsibility for the community or county.

A typical ceremony would require a formal media announcement and should be a combination of the unveiling of the StormReady roadway signs and a subsequent press conference. See Appendix D for a sample ceremony program.

Section 4.0

Insurance Services Organization (ISO)

Accredited jurisdictions participating in the National Flood Insurance Program can receive Community Rating Points (CRP) towards lowering flood insurance rates. StormReady counties should forward a copy of their recognition letter to their ISO representative for details.

Section 5.0

Recognition Monitoring

While a formal plan to monitor a recognized jurisdiction is not presently deemed necessary, if a formal concern is brought to the StormReady Advisory Board, the local board shall review the concern and holds the option to suspend the recognition for 60 days while a review is conducted.

If the local board review indicates the community or county no longer meets StormReady criteria, it will request the road signs be removed. A written notification shall be made to the ISO informing them of the action.

Section 6.0

Re-Recognition

StormReady recognitions are valid for two years from the date of the formal announcement / ceremony. The Local StormReady Advisory Board shall, six months prior to the expiration of the recognition, notify recognized jurisdictions in writing of their need to re-apply. Applicable criteria shall be those published at the time of the notification.

It is the goal of the Local StormReady Advisory Board to maintain an atmosphere of constant improvement, and strive to keep the evaluation criteria representative of the advancing technology and techniques.

Appendix A

StormReady Population-Based Criteria

Since the tax base typically dictates the resources applied to public programs, the criteria for successful participation in the StormReady Program are based on population. Although subject to later refinement, four population categories will be used for developing appropriate recognition criteria related to weather disaster preparedness. The population-based categories are:

Criteria	Population			
	< 2,500	2,500 - 14,999	15,000 - 40,000	> 40,000
Criterion 1: Communications				
Established 24 hr Warning Point (WP)	Local WP	X	X	X
Established Emergency Operations Center		X	X	X
Number of severe weather reports relayed to NWS per event or warning. Use of report form (Appendix E)	1	1	1	1
Criterion 2: NWS Information Reception				
Number of ways for EOC/WP to receive NWS warning. (NWR-SAME and EMWIN required)	3	4	4	4
Criterion 3: Hydrometeorological Monitoring				
Number of ways to monitor Hydrometeorological data.	1	2	3	4
Criterion 4: Local Warning Dissemination				
Number of ways for EOC/WP to disseminate warnings	1	2	3	4
NWR - SAME receivers in public facilities	X	X	X	X
Criterion 5: Community Preparedness				
Number of annual weather safety talks	1	2	3	4
Spotters and dispatchers trained biennially	X	X	X	X
Host / co-host annual NWS spotter training				X
Criterion 6: Administrative				
Formal hazardous weather operations plan	X	X	X	X
Biennial visits by emergency manager to NWS office	X	X	X	X
Annual visits by NWS official to community	X	X	X	X

Criterion 1: Communications & Coordination Center

The key to disaster management is effective communication. This is especially true in weather emergencies where rapid changes may permit only short lead-time warnings that require an immediate, educated response.

1. <u>24-Hour Warning Point.</u> To receive recognition under the StormReady Program, an applying agency will need to have a 24-hour warning point (WP) that can receive NWS information and provide local reports and advice. Typically, this might be a law enforcement or fire department dispatching point. For cities or towns without a local dispatching point, a county agency could act in that capacity for them. The warning point will need to have:

< 24 hour operations.

< Warning reception capability.

< Warning dissemination capability.

< Ability and authority to activate local warning system(s).

2. <u>Emergency Operations Center.</u> Agencies serving jurisdictions larger than 2,500 people will need an emergency operations center (EOC). The EOC will need to be staffed during hazardous weather events and, when staffed, would assume the warning point's hazardous weather functions. The following summarizes the weather-related roles of an EOC:

< May assume weather-related duties of warning point, when staffed.

< Activated based on predetermined guidelines related to NWS information and/or weather events.

< Staffed with emergency management director or designee.

< Warning reception capability.

< Ability and authority to activate local warning system(s). Must have capabilities equal to or better than the warning point.

< Ability to communicate with adjacent EOCs/Warning Points.

< Established communications link with NWS to relay real time weather information to support the warning decision making process.

3. <u>Severe Weather Information Exchange</u>. Rapid exchange of weather information between NWS and local jurisdictions is an important part of the NWS warning program. This includes the reporting of severe weather to the NWS from the 24 hour Warning Point or the EOC.

StormReady recognized counties should provide the NWS Tallahassee with at least one report for each severe weather event or one report each time a warning is issued for the county. Severe events include:

- Tornado
- Dime - sized hail or larger
- Wind measured at 58 mph or greater
- Structural and or tree damage due to winds
- accumulations of snow and/or ice
- significant Coastal Flooding

A report should also be sent soon after a warning has been issued for the county. This criteria applies to the following warnings:

- Severe Thunderstorm
- Tornado
- Flood or Flash Flood (other than rivers)
- Coastal Flood

Appendix E contains a reporting form for StormReady counties to use for making severe weather reports.

Criterion 2: National Weather Service Warning Reception

Warning points and EOCs each need multiple ways to receive NWS warnings. The StormReady Program criteria for receiving NWS warnings in an EOC/WP require a combination of the following, based on population (see Appendix A):

< NOAA Weather Radio receiver with Specific Area Message Encoding (NWR-SAME): ***Required for recognition, if within range of transmitter.***

< Emergency Management Weather Information Network (EMWIN) receiver: Satellite feed and/or VHF radio transmission of NWS products. Or receipt of EMWIN data feed via FL DEM satellite system ***(Required for recognition).***

< NOAA Weather Wire drop: Satellite downlink data feed from NWS

< Statewide law enforcement telecommunications: Automatic relay of NWS products on law enforcement systems.

< Amateur Radio transceiver: Potential communications directly to NWS office

< Pagers: From a provider not directly tied to a local system such as EMWIN.

< Television: Local network or cable TV.

< Local Radio (Emergency Alert System - LP1/LP2).

< Other: For example, active participation in a state-run warning network.

< National Warning System (NAWAS) drop: FEMA-controlled civil defense hotline.

Criterion 3: Hydrometeorological Monitoring

While receipt of warnings is crucial to the success of any EOC or warning point, there should also be a means of monitoring weather information, especially radar data. To obtain StormReady Program recognition, each EOC/WP (based on population) should have some combination of the following recommended means of gathering ancillary weather information:

< Local network or cable TV.

< Internet access to radar data.

< Dedicated radar data feed from NEXRAD vendor or local TV station.

< Instruments to provide a measure of local conditions and/or hydrologic conditions (cannot be the sole means of hydrometeorological monitoring) i.e. wind equipment, river gages etc.

< Locally owned and operated weather radar.

Criterion 4: Warning Dissemination

Once NWS warnings are received, or local information suggests an imminent weather threat, the goal of the local emergency officials should be to communicate with as much of the population as possible. Receiving StormReady recognition will be contingent upon having one or more of the following means of ensuring timely warning dissemination to citizens (based on population):

< At least one NWR-SAME receiver in each government-owned building that is accessed by the public, such as schools, hospitals, and administrative buildings (this is required if a signal can be received). Local ordinances are recommended to ensure this.

< A community program that subsidizes the purchase of NWR-SAME receivers, provided a NOAA Weather Radio signal can be received.

< Cable television audio/video overrides.

< Local Flood warning systems with no single point of failure.

< Other locally-controlled methods like a local broadcast system or sirens on emergency vehicles.

< Outdoor warning sirens.

< *Counties Only:* A County-wide communications network that ensures the flow of information between all cities and towns within its borders. This would include acting as a warning point for the smaller towns.

StormReady Criteria
(Continued)

Criterion 5: Preparedness

Public education is vital in preparing citizens to respond properly to weather threats. An educated public most likely will take steps to receive weather warnings, recognize potentially threatening weather situations, and act appropriately to those situations. Agencies seeking recognition in the StormReady Program will need to:

- < Conduct or facilitate safety talks for schools, hospitals, nursing homes and industries (number of talks per year will be based on population).

- < Accomplish weather-related safety campaigns which include publicity for NOAA Weather Radios where coverage exists.

Criterion 6: Administrative

No program can be successful without formal planning and pro-active administration. To be recognized in the StormReady Program:

Approved hazardous weather action plans will need to be in place. These plans will need to address, at a minimum, the following:

- < Warning point procedures.

- < NWR Alert Reception Log in use (see appendix F)

- < Sever Weather Event Report form in use (see appendix E)

- < EOC activation criteria and procedures.

- < Storm spotter activation criteria and reporting procedures.

- < Storm spotter roster and training record.

- < Criteria and procedures for activation of sirens, cable television override, and/or local systems activation in accordance with state Emergency Alert System (EAS) plans.

- < Annual exercises.

EOC/Warning point staff and field personnel will need to attend NWS storm spotter training sessions at least every other year. All jurisdictions larger than 40,000 people will need to host/co-host a spotter training session every year.

To facilitate close working relationships, the community/county emergency management program leader will need to visit the supporting NWS office at least every other year. NWS officials will commit to visit accredited counties, cities, and towns annually to tour EOCs/Warning Points and meet with key officials.

Appendix B
StormReady Application

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National Weather Service

StormReady
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Community Information	
County/City/Town		**Population**	

Primary Point of Contact		**Secondary Point of Contact**	
Name		Name	
Office		Office	
Title		Title	
Mailing Address		Mailing Address	
City		City	
State; ZIP		State; ZIP	
Phone		Phone	
e-mail		e-mail	

Guideline 1:   **Communications**

Location of 24-Hour Warning Point	Location of Emergency Operations Center

Verification Team General Notes:

Renewal Comments:

	Date:	Initials:

Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.

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Guideline 2:	NWS Information Reception Equipment			
Warning Point # Required_____ # Verif_____		Verif	**EOC** # Required_____ # Verif_____	Verif
☐ NOAA Weather Radio (Required if in range)		☐	☐ NOAA Weather Radio (Required if in range)	☐
☐ NOAA Weather Wire (Subscription)		☐	☐ NOAA Weather Wire (Subscription)	☐
☐ EMWIN		☐	☐ EMWIN	☐
☐ Law Enforcement Teletype (LETS)		☐	☐ Law Enforcement Teletype (LETS)	☐
☐ Amateur Radio		☐	☐ Amateur Radio	☐
☐ Pagers* (Warning reception)		☐	☐ Pagers* (Warning reception)	☐
☐ Television (Local network or cable TV)		☐	☐ Television (Local network or Cable TV)	☐
☐ Radio (AM/FM) - EAS reception		☐	☐ Radio (AM/FM) - EAS Reception	☐
☐ NAWAS		☐	☐ NAWAS	☐
☐ Internet (Subscription for alerts) _____		☐	☐ Internet (Subscription for alerts) _____	☐
☐ Commercial Data Service_____		☐	☐ Commercial Data Service_____	☐
☐ Other*_____		☐	☐ Other*_____	☐
☐ Other*_____		☐	☐ Other*_____	☐

List any additional capabilities on a separate sheet

*Capabilities needing explanation:

Verification Team Notes:

Renewal Comments:

	Date:	Initials:

Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.

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Guideline 3:	Local Weather & Water Monitoring Equipment			
Warning Point # Required_____ # Verif_____		Verif	**EOC** # Required_____ # Verif_____	Verif
☐ Anemometer (Wind gauge)		☐	☐ Anemometer (Wind gauge)	☐
☐ Rain Gauge		☐	☐ Rain Gauge	☐
☐ River Gauge		☐	☐ River Gauge	☐
☐ Locally owned Radar		☐	☐ Locally owned Radar	☐
☐ Internet Radar Source _____		☐	☐ Internet Radar Source _____	☐
☐ Internet Weather Station _____		☐	☐ Internet Weather Station _____	☐
☐ TV Radar Source_____		☐	☐ TV Radar Source_____	☐
☐ Other*_____		☐	☐ Other*_____	☐
☐ Other*_____		☐	☐ Other*_____	☐
List any additional capabilities on a separate sheet				
*Capabilities needing explanation:				
Verification Team Notes:				
Renewal Comments:				
			Date:	Initials:
Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.				

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Guideline 4:		Local Warning Dissemination		
Warning Point # Required_____ # Verif_____	Verif	**EOC** # Required_____ # Verif_____	Verif
☐ Outdoor Warning Siren(s)	☐	☐ Outdoor Warning Siren(s)	☐
☐ Cable TV Override	☐	☐ Cable TV Override	☐
☐ Plan for Sirens on Emergency Vehicles	☐	☐ Plan for Sirens on Emergency Vehicles	☐
☐ Local Alert Broadcast System*	☐	☐ Local Alert Broadcast System*	☐
☐ Local Pager System* (For dissemination)	☐	☐ Local Pager System* (For dissemination)	☐
☐ Telephone Tree to Critical Facilities	☐	☐ Telephone Tree to Critical Facilities*	☐
☐ Coordinated Area-Wide Radio Network*	☐	☐ Coordinated Area-Wide Radio Network*	☐
☐ Local Flood Warning System*	☐	☐ Local Flood Warning System*	☐
☐ Other*_____	☐	☐ Other*_____	☐
☐ Other*_____	☐	☐ Other*_____	☐

List any additional capabilities on a separate sheet

*Capabilities needing explanation:

Verification Team Notes:

Renewal Comments:

| | Date: | Initials: |

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Local Government-Owned Buildings in Which Public Traffic is Common				
Office	Location or Address	Tone Alert NOAA Weather Radio	Verif	Comments
Warning Point		☐	☐	
EOC		☐	☐	
City Hall		☐	☐	
School Superintendent		☐	☐	
		☐	☐	
		☐	☐	
		☐	☐	
		☐	☐	
		☐	☐	
		☐	☐	
		☐	☐	
		☐	☐	
		☐	☐	
		☐	☐	
		☐	☐	

Verification Team Notes:

Renewal Comments:

Date: Initials:

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Guideline 5:	Community Preparedness		

Annual Safety Talks		# Required_____ # Verif_____	
Date	Topic	Location	Speaker
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

List any additional safety talks on a separate sheet

Community Tsunami Awareness Program	Verif
☐ Designate/establish tsunami shelter/area in safe zone.	☐
☐ Designate tsunami evacuation areas and evacuation routes, and install evacuation route signs.	☐
☐ Provide written, locally specific tsunami hazard response material to public.	☐
☐ Encourage schools to implement a tsunami hazard curriculum, practice evacuations, and provide safety material to staff and students.	☐
Number of annual tsunami awareness campaigns:_____	☐

Weather Radio Purchase Program

Has your community/county developed a program to subsidize the purchase of Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) equipped Weather Radios for its citizens? (Not required) Yes_____   No_____

If yes, provide details:

Other Community Preparedness Activities			
Date	Activity	Location	Organizer
1			
2			
3			

List any additional activities on a separate sheet

Renewal Comments:

		Date:	Initials:

Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.

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Guideline 6: Administrative Tools/Record Keeping		Verif	Renewal
Formal Tsunami Hazard and Hazardous Weather Operations Plan	☐ Yes	☐	☐ Yes
< Procedure for reporting storm/tsunami damage to the local National Weather Service Office in real-time	☐ Yes	☐	☐ Yes
< EOC Activation Procedures	☐ Yes	☐	☐ Yes
< Spotter Activation Criteria	☐ Yes	☐	☐ Yes
< Local Warning System(s) Activation Criteria	☐ Yes	☐	☐ Yes
Warning Point personnel has authority to activate Warning System (written)	☐ Yes	☐	☐ Yes
Spotter Roster and Training Record	☐ Yes	☐	☐ Yes
Last Visit by Emergency Manager to NWS Office		☐ Biennial	
Last Visit by NWS Officials to Community		☐ Annual	
Last NWS Spotter Training for Spotters and Dispatchers		☐ Biennial	
Last NWS Spotter Training Hosted/Co-Hosted *(For populations >40,000)*		☐ Annual	
Exercises Topic(s):	Date:	☐	Date:

List any additional descriptions, narratives, or documentation on a separate sheet

Verification Team Notes:

Renewal Comments:

	Date:	Initials:

Signature of Applying Official

Application Submitted by (print name):

Office:	Title:
Signature:	Date:

NWS Personnel Receiving Application (print name):

Date Received:

Note: Please do not write in shaded areas.

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Site Verification Team Signatures	
Print Name:	
Office:	Title:
Signature:	Date:
Print Name:	
Office:	Title:
Signature:	Date:
Print Name:	
Office:	Title:
Signature:	Date:
Print Name:	
Office:	Title:
Signature:	Date:

Signature in Renewal Year	
Application Submitted by: (print name):	
Office:	Title:
Signature:	Date:
NWS Personnel Receiving Application (print name):	
Date Received:	

William "W.A." Woodham

Sheriff of Gadsden County

PHONE (850) 627-9233

P.O. BOX 1709 • QUINCY, FLORIDA 32353-1709

July 7, 2003

TO: Storm Ready Local Advisory Board

FROM: Gadsden County Emergency Management

Subject: Storm Ready Application

Attached is our Storm Ready Application for Gadsden County. Please review and contact us with any questions or any further required actions.

After meeting with Bob Goree from National Weather Service in Tallahassee, we feel our county has met all required criteria for Storm Ready recognition. We understand that Storm Ready is a continuing process to improve our county's capability to respond to severe weather and flooding.
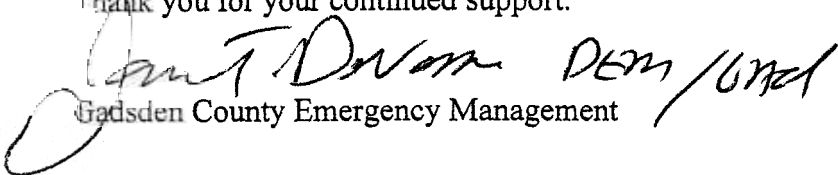
Regarding StormReady guideline 2, NWS information reception equipment, both our County our Warning Point (WP) and Emergency Operations Center have strong capabilities. NOAA Weather Radio receivers are at both locations. The EMwin system is fully functional at the EOC. All NWS warnings are reliably received at both the WP and EOC.

Guideline 3 requires local weather and water monitoring. We actively monitor weather and local flood conditions in Gadsden County and relay critical information to the State Warning Point and NWS Tallahassee. For example, we monitor significant rainfall with rain gages and actively monitor the river staff gage below the Jim Woodruff Dam.

To meet Guideline 4, Local Warning Dissemination, we have at least four means for relaying severe weather information to our personnel and our community. Urgent weather messages are relayed by both the WP or the EOC during activations.

We have ensured that NOAA Weather Radio receivers are in place and operational at government facilities in Gadsden County including the school system. We have worked with our neighbor Jackson County to fund a new NWR transmitter that will serve the western parts of Gadsden County. We look forward to this improved service and feel that this new system will enhance our StormReady status.

Thank you for your continued support.

Gadsden County Emergency Management

September 17, 2002

Bob Goree, Warning Coordination Meteorologist
3300 Capital Circle, SW
Suite 227
Tallahassee, FL 32310

Dear Mr. Goree,

Attached is the Lowndes County 911/Emergency Management Center application for Storm Ready certification. The National Weather Service is a vital partner in making Lowndes County a safer place to live and work. I very much appreciate the opportunity to meet the National Weather Service challenging criteria for Storm Ready.

The 911/EM Center is a consolidated Public Safety Answering Point and dispatching center that is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and has direct communications with all local emergency responders.

It serves a population of over 92,000 people in the Greater Lowndes County area consisting of the unincorporated area and 5 municipalities.

With the 911 activities and Emergency Management functions combined in the same organization, the planning, preparedness, administration, activation and monitoring of resources are effective and efficient. All 911/EM Center personnel are trained and tested on the procedures to recognize and disseminate weather related information, both to the public and to the emergency responders.

Public education briefings, tours, and speeches/talks, given by 911/EM Center personnel, help prepare our citizens to respond properly to weather threats.

To facilitate close working relationships with NWS, local agencies and the general public, the 911/EM Center personnel visit the NWS, attend and co-host training, and develop/implement/coordinate hazard weather action plans.

Sincerely,

Nick Lacey

Nick Lacey
Director

Attachment

Copy to: Joe Pritchard

Lowndes County Commissioners

Rod Casey	Joyce E. Evans	Richard C. Lee	G. Robert Carter
Chairman	*District 1*	*District 2*	*District 3*

Cities of Whitehall and Montague
StormReady Recognition
Presentation Ceremony

Whitehall City Hall, Commission Chambers
7:30 pm Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Opening Remarks
Introduction of Guests & Officials
Jim Duram, Cities of Whitehall/Montague Emergency Services Director

StormReady Program
Mike Heathfield, Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM)
National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office (WFO), Grand Rapids, MI

The StormReady and Emergency Management Partnership
Don Woodward, Michigan State Police, District 6 Emergency Management Division, Director

StormReady Presentation
Daniel G. Houser, Meteorologist in Charge (MIC)
National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office (WFO), Grand Rapids, MI

Response by Local Officials
Norman Ullman, City of Whitehall, Mayor
Dwayne Trombly, City of Montague, Mayor Pro Tempore

Open Time for Interviews

StormReady
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Severe Weather Event Report Form

FAX to NWS Tallahassee
850-942-8850

Severe Weather Event Report
_____ County

Location of event (please include sketch on a map if possible)	Time occurred	Description of event or damage	Deaths or injuries	Property damage cost*	Agricultural damage cost*

Instructions

- ❏ If event has just occurred, call NWS at 800-598-4562 (Unlisted)
- ❏ Then, fax this form with details as time allows
- ❏ If you hear of an event that is hours or days old, fax this form
- ❏ Anytime you were under an NWS Warning, fax this form as a follow-up. This helps us issue more accurate warnings in the future!
- ❏ See reverse for examples

What to report

- ✓ Wind damage
- ✓ Hail over ½ inch
- ✓ Tornado or verified funnel clouds
- ✓ Significant flooding
- ✓ See reverse for examples
- ✓ Freezing or frozen precipitation
- ✓ Other significant weather events

StormReady program goal: Each community should relay at least one report for each severe weather event or warning...

National Oceanic and Atmospheric

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Location of event	Time occurred	Description of event or damage	Deaths or injuries	Property damage cost*	Agricultural damage cost*
5 miles NW of Shady Corner	0515 am EDT	1 barn destroyed, 2 cows killed. A farm worker received cuts from flying debris	1 minor injury	$50,000	$1,500
				* Optional estimates	

example 2 (tornado)

Location of event	Time occurred	Description of event or damage	Deaths or injuries	Property damage cost*	Agricultural damage cost*
SR 53 - just south of Hogwaller	1000pm EDT	an apparent tornado residents saw funnel cloud approach and touched down. About 100 pine trees were knocked down.	none		
				* Optional estimates	

Example 3 (no damage during a warning)

Location of event	Time occurred	Description of event or damage	Deaths or injuries	Property damage cost*	Agricultural damage cost*
	4-5pm Friday	Only had heavy rain lightning and gusty wind. No damage reported.			
				* Optional estimates	

StormReady
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

NWS Tallahassee
FAX: 850-942-8850

NOAA Weather Radio
Alert Test Reception Log
Office: _____

Date of Test (Wednesdays between 11am and noon)	Alert Received?	Time alert received	Alert NOT Received	NWS Notified of non-receipt
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑
	❑		❑	❑

Instructions

- ❑ Make a log entry for each Wednesday.
- ❑ Note time of the alert signal
- ❑ Note any problems or non-receipt of the alert
- ❑ Notify NWS Tallahassee in case of non- receipt by faxing the form or calling

*StormReady program goal:
NOAA Weather Radio should be a primary alerting system for our communities...*

**National
Oceanic and Atmospheric**